

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

1. (original) Intervertebral prosthesis characterized in that it comprises an elastic body (1) designed to be inserted between two adjacent vertebrae (L2, L3) against the laminar arch (A2, A3) of each vertebra, and means (3, 5) for securing the elastic body to said laminar arches.

2. (original) Prosthesis according to Claim 1, characterized in that said securing means comprise an anchoring plate (3,5) for each end of the elastic body for anchoring to the corresponding laminar arch (A2, A3) of each of said vertebrae.

3. (original) Prosthesis according to claim 2, characterized in that said plate is substantially rigid.

4. (currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 2 or 3, characterized in that each plate has a plurality of projections (3A, 3B, 3C; 5A, 5B, 5C) shaped and arranged for co-acting with the corresponding laminar arch of each vertebra.

5. (original) Prosthesis according to claim 4, characterized in that each plate (3,5) has three projections towards the corresponding laminar arch(A2, A3).

6. (original) Prosthesis according to claim 5, characterized in that each plate includes a median projection (3A, 5A) designed for insertion into the spinal foramen of the vertebra and two laterally spaced apart lateral projections(3B, 3C ; 5B,5C) designed for insertion in contact with the corresponding outer surfaces(FB, FC; GB, GC) of the laminae forming the laminar arch (A2; A3).

7. (original) Prosthesis according to claim 6, characterized in that said median projection is sufficiently

thin so that it can be inserted into the spinal foramen of the vertebra without compressing the spinal cord.

8. (currently amended) Prosthesis according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized by connection means to connect said securing means (3, 5) to said elastic body (1).

9. (original) Prosthesis according to claim 8, characterized in that said connection means include ligatures (7, 9), each of which passes through first holes (3D, 3E; 5D, 5E) provided in said plates and corresponding second holes (1D, 1E) provided in said elastic body, said first holes and said second holes being in line with each other.

10. (currently amended) Prosthesis according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that each of said anchoring plates (3, 5) has a groove (3S, 5S) on the surface in contact with the elastic body (1), for the insertion of a corresponding tip (P2, P3) of divaricator forceps (P) in order to separate the vertebrae (L2, L3) between which the prosthesis is to be fitted.

11. (original) Prosthesis according to claim 10, characterized in that-said grooves (3S, 5S) in the two plates are orientated parallel to each other.

12. (currently amended) Prosthesis according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that it further includes an auxiliary. ligament () for the spinous processes () of the two vertebrae (L2, L3) between which the prosthesis is introduced.

13. (original) Prosthesis according to claim 12, characterized in that at least one of said plates includes engaging means () for engaging said auxiliary ligament.

14. (original) Prosthesis according to claim 13, characterized in that each of said plates includes engaging

means () for engaging said auxiliary ligament.

15. (currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 13
~~or 14~~, characterized in that said engaging means include at least one lateral hook () for at least one of said plates.

16. (currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 13,
~~14 or 15~~, characterized in that said engaging means include two lateral hooks () for each of said plates.

LAW OFFICES
DENNISON, SCHULTZ, DOUGHERTY & MACDONALD
SUITE 105
1727 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314-2700
703 837-9600